



Childhood Connections

October 4, 2022

Focusing on Our Why



Photo credit: Julie Smith, Jefferson City News Tribune

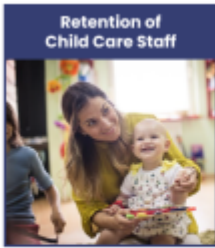
Last month, staff in the Office of Childhood met in-person for the first time since the office launched. We had a great time together! It was so good to see everyone and learn more about what motivates and challenges us to do great work. Read more about the one year event in [this newspaper article](#). I've seen first-hand how passionate our team members are about helping children and families, and how important it is to take a moment to support one another in our everyday work. For each of us, the “why” we work in childhood programs is unique to us. It drives us to do more, it keeps us going when times get tough, it helps us to celebrate the big moments, and it reminds us that little things really matter. As we re-focus our efforts to supporting children and families, we encourage you to think about your “why” too!

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

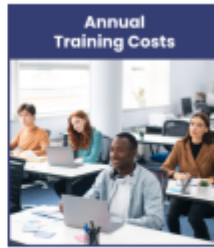
NEW! Child Care Relief Funds Applications are Now Open



NEW! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting



Retention of Child Care Staff



Annual Training Costs

The first round of applications for Retention of Child Care Staff and Annual Training Costs are now available for eligible child care providers to apply. Details are on the [Child Care Relief Funds webpage](#) under the buttons for Retention of Child Care Staff and Annual Training Costs.

- These grants are made possible with Child Care American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization funds.
- To apply, the child care provider must be enrolled in the state subsidy program or be licensed and meet all of the health and safety requirements.
- For more details about timelines and activities, check out the Instructions and Terms & Conditions for each application.
- The deadline to apply is November 30, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

NEW! Annual Child Care Subsidy Income Eligibility Adjustment

The annual child care subsidy income eligibility limit adjustments will take effect on October 15, 2022. The income limits for families to be eligible for the child care subsidy benefit are updated annually with changes in the Federal Poverty level. [House Bill 3002](#) (section 2.510) has allowed a third level of transitional child care eligibility to be added, which increases the maximum income threshold for families in the child care subsidy program up to 242% of the Federal Poverty Level. Access the new income eligibility chart by visiting [Child Care Subsidy Payments](#) on or after October 15, 2022.

SkakeOut Earthquake Drill

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

REMINDER! October is Safe Sleep Awareness Month

Swaddled babies should only be placed on their back. Weighted swaddles or other weighted objects are not recommended. When baby shows any attempt at rolling over, swaddling is not appropriate and unsafe. Under the new federal Safe Sleep for Babies Act unsafe, potentially dangerous sleep products such as in bed sleepers, inclined sleepers, loungers and compact sleepers will no longer be legal as of mid-2022. [Learn more in this free tool kit.](#)

NEW! Comment Opportunity from Child Care Subsidy

The OOC is proposing to amend the [Child Care Subsidy rule](#). The proposed changes will impact Eligibility and Authorization for Child Care Subsidy (5 CSR 25-200.060) and will be published in the [Missouri Registry \(pp. 1430-1432\)](#) on October 3, 2022. The OOC welcomes your comments on the proposed rule amendment. If you wish to comment, you can access the rule and



On **Thursday, October 20th**, schools and child care facilities are encouraged to participate in the annual Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill. Hundreds of thousands of Missouri students participate each year. Participants will practice the “Drop, Cover, Hold On” technique to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake. Remember you should:

1. DROP to your hands and knees
2. COVER your head and neck with your hands and arms under a table or desk if you can
3. HOLD ON until the shaking stops

Experts say Drop, Cover, Hold On is the best protection from falling debris, which is the most likely cause of injury during an earthquake in developed nations with modern building standards.

To learn more and to register for the event, please visit Shakeout.org/centralus.

REMINDER! Rapid Antigen Testing Program Available for Child Care Programs

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has COVID-19 rapid antigen tests available at no-cost for early care and education (ECE) programs to share with families and staff.

- The rapid antigen tests are available for distribution to families enrolled in care and program staff for use at home. Programs can send tests home with each family and/or staff member to have on hand if needed, or provide a test when someone requests it.
- Tests are shipped from the DHSS warehouse on Mondays. All orders submitted before

comment link on the Child Care Subsidy [webpage](#), under Rules & Regulations through November 2, 2022.

REMINDER! IDEA Part C Changes Comment Period

The OOC is proposing to amend the state regulations implementing Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) known as the Missouri Part C State Plan for First Steps. To review the proposed changes, information on public hearings in November, and how to submit comments, please review the [stakeholder message here](#).

REMINDER! Upcoming Conscious Discipline Training

Are you a child care provider enrolled in subsidy or licensed with all required training and interested in Conscious Discipline training and materials at no cost? Please fill out this [interest form](#) if you would like to attend training in your area.

REMINDER! Affordable Connectivity Program Benefits

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford

midnight on Sunday will be included in the weekly order.

- The tests provided through this program come two tests per box. If you order 180 tests, 90 people will be able to receive a box.
- Participating ECE programs are not responsible for reporting any COVID-19 test results for tests used at home. Many local public health agencies have set-up online reporting for at-home COVID tests.

Visit the [DHSS Rapid Antigen Test Kit Application and Resource Page](#) for testing resources or to enroll in the program.

UPDATED! Child Care Subsidy Provider Rates

The new child care subsidy provider rates will not be available online or in CCBIS until October 20, 2022. Provider payments will be retroactive back to October 1, 2022, and will be reflected in the November payment for the service month of October. Providers serving children in protective services in foster care will get the market rate, and providers serving adoption subsidy and/or children in protective services for which legal guardianship is being pursued will receive the base rate. The updated rates include differentials for providers offering evening/weekend care and variances based on locale. Please contact the Child Care Subsidy Payment team at 573-522-1385 with rate related questions.

REMINDER! Contact OOC Prior to Changing Ownership of Your Child Care Program

Did you know that a completed sale or change of ownership of a child care program renders the current license null and void? Group Home and Center Licensing Rules – 5 CSR 25.500.042 (14) states: “The license shall not be transferable and shall apply only to the person(s) and address shown on the license.” and 5 CSR 25.500.042 (17) states: “The license shall become null and void if— (A) Revoked; (B) The owner closes the facility; (C) The facility changes ownership; or (D) In the case of licenses not held by legal entities, the death of the licensee(s).”

If there is a currently licensed child care program in a building, the new owner must complete the full initial licensing process to be granted a license because the license for the previous owner is null

internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Eligible households can enroll using an online or mail in application. To learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, visit fcc.gov/ACP, or call 877-384-2575.

NEW! Missouri School Age Community Conference (MOSAC2)

The 29th annual MOSAC2 conference will be held at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri on November 18-20, 2022. MOSAC2 provides a professional development opportunity for teachers, afterschool staff, and administrators who work with children in K-12 in out-of-school time programs. Join us at the MOSAC2 conference to learn from experts in the field, network with your peers, and renew your joy of working with children and youth because “There’s no place like afterschool!” For more information or to register, visit the [conference website](#).

and void once a new owner takes ownership of the program. The same rules apply for family home's. Contact your Child Care [Compliance Inspector](#) for questions and guidance prior to making any changes to the ownership of your program.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Parent Educators Ashley Wheeler and Angela Watkins giving out books to families. Photo courtesy of Frank Killian, Richland R-1 Superintendent.

This month's spotlight is on the Dexter R-XI School District's Missouri Parents as Teachers, Parent Education program (MOPAT). Dexter R-XI has partnered with Richland R-1 to provide all components of PAT for 10 years. When the part-time parent educator retired, Superintendent Frank Killian thought it would be more financially feasible to contract services to provide families in his district with a quality program, and to ensure children came to school ready to learn. The partnership has been beneficial to both districts. Richland families have the benefit of 12 group connection opportunities and parent educators have the ability to receive reflective supervision, resources, etc. It only took a few years to develop school family relationships. Families see their parent educators at school functions as well as developmental screenings on the school campus. The consistency of having the same parent educator when families move from one district to another has been beneficial for everyone!

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A recording and the PowerPoint slides from the September webinar is available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information. You can view archived webinars here:

- [August 2022](#)
- [July 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on October 25, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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